

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission



From left to right: W.L. (Barry) Orscheln, Vice Chairman; Marge Schramm, William P. McKenna, James B. Anderson, Duane S. Michie, Ollie W. Gates, Chairman

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission is a six-member, bipartisan board that governs the Missouri Department of Transportation. The governor, with the consent of the Senate, appoints the members of the commission to staggered terms of six years each. No more than three commissioners may be of the same political party.

The director, chief counsel and commission secretary are all appointed by the commission.

All other appointments are made by the director with the approval of the commission.

Henry Hungerbeeler, Director
Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer
Pat Goff, Chief Operating Officer

Mari Ann Winters, Secretary to the Commission
Rich Tiemeyer, Chief Counsel



Looking forward, looking back



It's always good to look around and take stock of where we've been, where we are and where we're going. The state of transportation in today's Missouri is significantly different than it was even 50 short years ago when cars were fewer and cell phones were non-existent.

Much has changed since then, but one thing hasn't – Missourians' Show-Me attitude. People here make a person back up what he says with action.

And showing is exactly what I think the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the Missouri Department of Transportation have been doing the past few years. As this is our 2002 Annual Report, let's look back at some of the good things we've done recently.

During the summer of 2002, MoDOT changed its philosophy and operation of work zones across the state. Safety remains the No.1 priority, but the direction changed to focus more on motorist convenience and traffic flow. A new work-zone policy was implemented to minimize traffic delays and closed lanes during the day, and to shift appropriate project work to night-time hours. This didn't come without some resistance, but we feel the change has been positive and effective.

Developing new technologies and ways of doing business are also key

components of how the department is improving transportation in Missouri. Through an executive order in February 2002, Gov. Bob Holden directed that several state agency units and departments be consolidated into MoDOT as a unified One-Stop Shop for Motor Carrier Services. This move makes more efficient use of taxpayer dollars and is more convenient for commercial users of the system.

New technology that allows big rigs to weigh in motion is another way we're working to increase service and decrease delays for Missourians. This advancement helps carriers make better time — some trucks will not have to stop at all at weigh stations — and it also provides the Missouri State Highway Patrol with better enforcement options.

With a substantial boost from bond financing, MoDOT delivered the biggest construction program in its history during fiscal year 2002. And this enormous road-and-bridge-building program, totaling nearly a billion dollars in contract awards, was delivered within 2 percent of our engineers' estimate.

Doing business smarter, leaner and more efficiently than ever before is how we're backing up the talk and delivering to taxpayers the priorities we've said we're committed to.

Our strategic direction has three parts.

Take Better Care of What We Have — Minimal investment in existing roads in favor of expansion projects has taken a toll on Missouri. Allocating more here will help get us back on track.

Finish What We've Started — Even though projects will take much longer to complete than we had hoped, the dollars available will be used to complete major projects that remain unfinished. Fewer dollars are available now for corridor expansion.

Build Public Trust — By focusing on the customer and doing what we say we'll do, public confidence will increase.

At first glance, the look ahead appears difficult because of limited resources and decreasing revenue projections. However, when I look back over all the commission, the department and the state accomplished last year, I can't help but look ahead with optimism.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ollie W. Gates".

Ollie W. Gates
Chairman
Missouri Highways and Transportation
Commission